



January - March 2020

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A LETTER FROM YOUR MAYOR

Dear Fellow Citizens,

As I look back over 2019, I am amazed at all we have accomplished during the year, so I want to share the highlights with you. So here are just a few!

Commercial Development

- RaceTrac Convenience Store opened in April
- The Olana Hickory Creek opened for weddings in June
- Pho Luv Vietnamese Noodle and iKool Tea opened in August
- Clean & Green Car Wash held their Grand Re-Opening this Fall after a change of ownership
- Elm Fork Kitchen & Taphouse broke ground in January, and opened for business in early November
- Angelina's Mexican Restaurant broke ground in July, and we expect them to open in early 2020
- Don Camillo's Italian Restaurant secured land in December, and plans are underway for construction near Elm Fork and Angelina's
- Mark Tucker Allstate Insurance office (Ventana/I35) will be complete by the end of 2019

Land Development

- Two new neighborhood communities are under development. Beazer Homes will add 89 homes near Turbeville and Point Vista Roads, and Hickory Farms will add 130 new homes near Ronald Reagan Ave and Point Vista Road.
- Shadow Creek Estates Phase 2 is under construction
- The Town received voluntary annexation requests on three tracts of land. These tracts, including The Olana, were formerly in the Hickory Creek Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). The annexation requests were approved, bringing almost 100 acres of land into the Hickory Creek town limits.
- In November, the Council held a Public Hearing, and adopted a zoning change for a Planned Development in the 1200 block of Sycamore Bend Road, just south of Maynard Road. This approximately 30+ acre development will bring single-family homes to a new neighborhood called Sycamore Cove.
- As a part of the Sycamore Cove agreement, the developer will donate the land needed to expand Sycamore Bend Road. This will help accomplish a long-time goal of improving access to Sycamore Bend Park.

Community Improvements

- Celebrated the completion and opening of the expanded intersection of Turbeville & Point Vista Roads
- Completed sidewalks from Ronald Reagan Avenue to Turbeville Road and along Harbor Lane
- The Council approved a golf cart ordinance that will allow golf carts on town streets. *There are several more steps to come before implementation, so watch for news on our website and Facebook page!*
- Additional fire hydrants are planned for the east side of Hickory Creek along Lake Drive & Meadow Lane
- The Parks & Open Space Master Plan will be presented in early 2020 to the Council
- The Council recognized 6 Eagle Scout candidates this year! These scouts planned park improvements that required approximately 200 man-hours per project to complete, for a total of 1200 combined man-hours. These are outstanding young men who have left their mark on Hickory Creek in a very tangible way!
- And last, but certainly not least, as home values continued to rise, the Council once again lowered the Hickory Creek property tax rate!

I am looking forward with great expectation to all that we will accomplish for Hickory Creek in the new year, and the new decade! I count it an honor and privilege to serve as your Mayor.

Best wishes for 2020!

Lynn Clark





WINTER TREE WATERING TIPS

By Arbor Day Foundation

Although trees remain dormant during the winter, they are not immune to cold and dry conditions. Trees experience the stress of harsh winter weather—though they might not show it—and it's usually a lack of water that does the most damage. Heading into the winter with dry roots can mean major trouble for trees in the spring.

Though it may be gray and wintry outside, your trees still need you. Long, dry periods without supplemental water can damage root systems and kill your trees. Although they may look normal in the spring, trees that have been weakened over the winter will usually die back later in the summer.

WATERING DURING THE WINTER

Keep watering trees on a regular schedule through the fall and until the ground begins to freeze (usually late October or November). Once the ground freezes, continue to monitor weather conditions throughout the winter months.

WHEN TO WATER

Water acts like an insulator, both to a tree and the soil. Soil that stays moist will be warmer; likewise plant cells that are plump with water will be less susceptible to damage from the cold.

Trees which are dormant don't need to be watered as frequently as during the growing season. When there is little to no snow cover and little precipitation, plan on watering your trees one to two times per month until they begin leafing out in the spring. If the site is particularly windy, your trees may need more water. Once the ground thaws in the spring, you can resume your regular watering schedule.

Water only when the temperature is above 40 degrees F and there is no snow or ice on the ground near your trees. Water early in the day, so the plants have time to absorb it before the temperature drops at night.

Trees like their water slow and deep. Newly planted trees will require more frequent watering. You can check soil moisture by using a garden trowel and inserting it into the ground to a depth of 2", and then move the blade of the

trowel back and forth to create a small narrow trench. Then use your finger to touch the soil. If it is moist to the touch, then they do not need water.

Be careful to apply water all the way out to the edge of the tree's root spread. Most established trees have a root spread equal to their height. Water deeply with a soaker hose, if possible, and avoid spraying on foliage if watering an evergreen tree.

MULCH

Mulch is one of the best things you can do for your trees heading into the winter. Adding a layer of organic mulch in the fall protects the soil from moisture loss and helps regulate soil temperature throughout the winter.

Planting sites which are more exposed to freezing and thawing are prone to cracks in the soil, which can dry out a tree's roots. Mulch acts as a blanket and can prevent this kind of damage.

WATERING YOUNG TREES

Young or newly planted trees are much more susceptible to drought injury during the winter months. Make sure they are well watered through the summer and fall up until the ground freezes, and water every couple of weeks during the winter when there is no snow cover.

EVERGREENS

Evergreen trees lose water through their needles in the dry winter air, so they need more stored-up water going into the winter season to make up for it. Cold, dry winds can actually strip water from Evergreens faster than their roots can absorb it. That's why it's especially important to provide a sufficient water supply in the fall, and water during dry spells during the winter.

While it may seem counterintuitive to get out the hose when everything around you is brown and gray, it's critical to keep your trees alive and healthy. Don't ignore your trees this winter. Keep watering them and see how they thank you with a beautiful show in the spring.

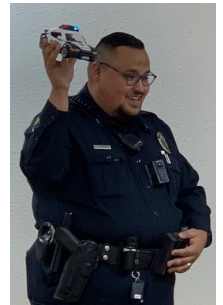
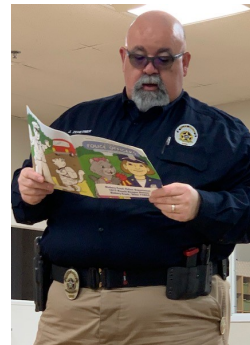
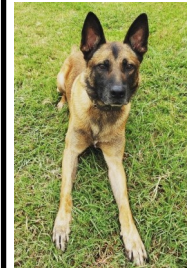
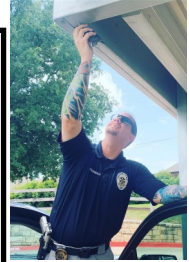
BEHIND THE BADGE

THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVE AND PROTECT THE TOWN OF HICKORY CREEK



Hickory Creek Police Officers respond to emergencies, enforce traffic laws and investigate complaints. They not only ensure that the residents and visitors to our town are safe, they also give a helping hand when needed. In October 2019, they participated in the Pink Patch Project to assist someone in our community with their fight against breast cancer. On Thursday, January 9, 2020 we honor the men and women who protect us –

Happy National Law Enforcement Day!



BRAVERY IS NOT THE ABSENCE OF FEAR BUT

ACTION IN THE FACE OF FEAR

COUNCIL RECOGNITIONS

The Arbor Day Poster contest winners were announced at the Arbor Day celebration on Saturday, November 9 and were recognized by Town Council at the November 25 Town Council Meeting. Thank you to all the students from Primrose, Corinth Classical Academy, and Lake Dallas Elementary who participated.



Eagle Scout candidate, Collin Bloomfield was recognized by Town Council for building a life saving shelter at Sycamore Bend.

Town Council recognized Randy Gibbons from the Church of Jesus Christ Latter-Day Saints Lake Cities 2nd Ward who hosted a park cleanup in Sycamore Bend.

Eagle Scout Candidate Paul Huggins was recognized by the Town Council for repairing the Arrowhead Park gangway.

Lisa Rowell was recognized for her service on the Parks and Recreation Board. Lisa has served on the board since June 2015.



ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION



On Saturday, November 9, the Parks and Recreation board hosted an Arbor Day Celebration at Town Hall in honor of Hickory Creek's eleventh year as a Tree City. The event began with the National Anthem sung by the Corinth Classical Academy Choir. The event included demonstrations regarding the Benefits of Trees, composting and Tree Clean Water. There were tree care pamphlets and tree giveaways. Prior to the event, students from Primrose, Lake Dallas

Elementary, and Corinth Classical Academy participated in an Arbor Day Poster contest. The winners of the poster contest were announced during the celebration. A free lunch was provided by resident Mark Tucker: Allstate Insurance. The Parks and Recreation Board, along with Town Council members planted a tree in front of town hall to commemorate the Arbor Day Celebration. Than you to those who came out to help celebrate Arbor Day with Hickory Creek.



10 WATER SAFETY TIPS FOR FAMILIES

KALI'S LAW



HOW IT EFFECTS YOU

1. **Never Swim Alone**
2. **Supervise Children When They're in the Water**
3. **Don't Play Breath-Holding Games**
4. **ALWAYS Wear a Life Vest**
5. **Don't Jump in the Water to Save a Friend**
6. **Enter the Water Feet First**
7. **Stay Away From Pool Drains**
8. **Stay Within Designated Swim Areas**
9. **Avoid Using Alcohol**
10. **Learn CPR**

Warmer weather results in more boaters heading to the lake. Spending time on the water with friends and family makes for fun memories. While boaters and their passengers are enjoying time on the lake, practicing water safety is of the most importance.

Kali's law, named after a 16-year old of San Antonio who died after being thrown from a boat then stuck which went into effect September 1, 2019, requires all watercrafts less than 26 feet in length to have an emergency cutoff switch, whether lanyard or wireless attachment. The device, often referred to as a "kill switch," is a clip or similar device that attaches to the driver of the watercraft on their lifejacket, around their wrist, or on another secured article of clothing. The other end attaches to the engine ignition which or other button that turns on the watercraft's engine.

Then, if the driver is tossed overboard or off their feet, the kill switch would disable the engine. The new law aims to prevent boaters or passengers from getting struck by a watercraft or its propeller if the driver is thrown into the water or off their feet. The law is named after a 16-year old of San Antonio who died after being thrown from a boat then struck by the propeller.

As of January 2019, "manufacturers, distributors, and dealers, are required to put engine cutoff switches on all new boats less than 26 feet in length. The new law does not require the retrofitting of old vessels that are not equipped with a kill switch. It does not permit the removal of a kill switch device that was originally installed on the vessel. Wireless kill switch devices are permitted for those with concerns about the lanyard style devices.

In addition to wearing a kill switch, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department stress all boaters follow important safety precautions while on the water, like wearing a lifejacket, checking the weather before entering the water, knowing the rules of the waterway by taking a boater education class and avoiding alcohol.

For more boating safety tips and information, visit Texas Parks and Wildlife Department page at <https://tpwd.texas.gov/>

WELCOME 2020!

The decorations are put away and the list of new resolutions have been made in hopes that this year-2020 will be the best yet. If serving is one of your new years resolutions we have open positions on our boards! Go to www.hickorycreek-tx.gov to complete a Volunteer Board & Commission Member Application.

While the new calendar year has just begun, the fiscal year began back in October. The Council set goals to include the continuation of sidewalk city-connecting the west side of town to the east side of town, plans to welcome new business and residential construction, the addition of fire hydrants to Harbor Grove, and the completion of the Master Parks Plan from Dunaway. To stay up to date with all the exciting things happening in town, follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor, or sign up to receive emails at www.hickorycreek-tx.gov under Notify Me.



SEE YOU AT THE STATION

On Wednesday, September 25, the Town of Hickory Creek hosted the 4th annual "See You at the Station." An event, founded in 2015 by a citizen in Robinson, Texas, to pray for our police officers, firefighter, and all first responders.

Police officers from Corinth, Hickory Creek, and Lake Dallas, firefighters from the Lake Cities Fire Department, town and city staff members, local pastors, Lake Cities Chamber of Commerce members, and elected officials joined together in support our men and women in uniform. These men and women are first to respond when tragedy invades our communities and sometimes their efforts go thankless, but certainly not without notice.

WINTERY WEATHER

Every winter, on days with freezing temperatures, multiple complaints are received about water from sprinkler systems and other sources creating icy conditions around town. The Town of Hickory Creek's Drought and Water Usage Plan states:

"A person commits an offense if he knowingly or recklessly irrigates, waters, or causes or permits the irrigation or watering of a lawn or landscape located on premises owned, leased, or managed by the person in a manner that causes....the formation of ice or any other hazardous condition."

If you have a sprinkler system, disable the system anytime the forecast calls for freezing temperatures or install a rain/freeze sensor to prevent future problems. Also, eliminate any other ways that ice may form and create a hazard. Violations can result in the issuance of citations.



A FRIENDLY REMINDER FROM THE MUNICIPAL COURT



Every two years the legislators in the state meet and vote on bills to make into law. This past legislative update the state decided to repeal the drivers responsibility program which inflicted automatic surcharges on certain traffic offenses. Initially this program was created in order to detour Texas drivers from driving without insurance, driving under the influence, and driving without a drivers license. Unfortunately, the program did not work as planned and many Texans were caught up in a vicious cycle and left unable to pay their surcharges. This cycle hindered almost a million people from obtaining a valid Texas drivers license. As of September 1, 2019 all surcharges that were accrued have been waived and many Texans have been able to renew their license.

As with most things with the good comes the bad. As of September 1, 2019 the legislator imposed an additional \$20 traffic fee which is to be collected on all traffic violations. Then to follow in January 2020 all court cost will be increasing from \$3 to \$14 and the state consolidated fees will also be increasing from \$40 to \$62. This means that as of January 1, 2020 the state is requiring each city to collect an additional \$33 in cost on all violations filed in the municipal courts. However, they did graciously reduce OMNI fees by \$20, reduced the time payment fee from \$25 to \$15, and removed the \$0.10 moving violation fee that was imposed on all moving violations.

Most people are unaware that there are state fees attached to the monetary total of every traffic citation and a portion of all fees must be sent to the state every quarter. These changes imposed by the most recent legislative have impacted every municipal court in the state of Texas and they could also impact your pocket book if you receive a citation. So as always drive carefully, come to complete stops, obey all posted speed limit signs, and make sure you yield to vehicles coming off the highway as they do have the right of way.

HICKORY CREEK OFFICER HONORED BY LAKE CITIES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



GOING ON VACATION SOON?

Are you traveling or making plans to travel in the upcoming months? Complete a vacation watch and have an officer drive by to check on your residence while you are away! Go to [www. Hickorycreek-tx.gov](http://www.Hickorycreek-tx.gov) > Departments > Police > Quick Links > Vacation Watch



The Lake Cities Chamber of Commerce honored Hickory Creek Police Officer Jim Zehetner as the November 2019 Responder of the Month.

Jim began his career in Hickory Creek in 2002. In 2004, he left to pursue other interests but quickly realized he missed working in Law Enforcement and had the opportunity to return to HCPD in early 2006.

Since then, Zehetner has been integral to the operations of the Department. He is a state-certified property and evidence technician and serves as a member of the statewide advisory board for property and evidence. He holds his Advanced Peace Officer License and is also a certified instructor for both general Law Enforcement courses as well as a firearms instructor. He serves as the Departments Rangemaster and firearms expert, as well as a field training officer and equipment manager.

Zehetner's interest has long been technology-driven policing, and to that end he keeps the department on the cutting edge of technology. He dedicates a large amount of his own time to researching products and services, conducting testing, and attending training specific to technology and the digital forensics field. He has been extensively trained through the National Computer Forensic Institute as part of a select group of professionals from all over the country to participate in a US Secret Service Task Force to assist in the investigation of digital crimes nationwide.

TREE LIGHTING WRAP UP

'Twas the day of the tree lighting, when all through the town
 All employees on assignment, no time to sit down!
 The tents were prepared with tables and chairs,
 In hopes that youngsters, soon would be there.
 The prizes were placed 'neath the tree with care,
 For attendees not to touch, but just stare.
 Santa was dressed in his suite of red and white,
 To ride in Rosie, down Ronald Reagan that night.
 At the strike of six, the tree would light up,
 While the CoServ Snackin' Wagon poured hot cocoa in each cup.
 The popcorn was fresh and cotton candy sticky,
 Making my gingerbread house was quite tricky.
 Take a ride on the trackless train,
 Visit with Santa and receive a candy cane.
 The snow corral was packed to the brim,
 Of course the Grinch was there, did you see him?
 The big screen displayed the reindeer with the famous red nose,
 Attendees stopped at the photo booth to strike a pose.
 Snowmen and elves, there were crafts galore,
 The face painters lines were out the door,
 The most festive of tunes, came from the jazz band.
 Donations were collected of toys and food that is canned.
 So thank you for coming, we hope you had fun,
 Lots of yummy treats eaten and prizes were won.
 But now that Santa has returned back up north,
 Mark your calendars for next year's Tree Lighting on December Fourth!





WHAT IS “VAPING”?

“Vaping” is the act of inhaling and exhaling the aerosol, often referred to as vapor, which is produced by an e-cigarette, often referred to as a “vape”. The vapor delivers a dose of addictive nicotine with each puff. Unlike conventional methods of nicotine delivery (cigarettes), vaping uses “vape juice” instead of burning tobacco, producing minimal or pleasantly-scented smell. Vape juice is offered in a variety of flavors and nicotine levels.

... IS VAPING BAD?

Very simple and complicated answer: It depends how you look at it. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), “E-cigarettes have the potential to benefit adult smokers who are not pregnant if used as a complete substitute for regular cigarettes and other smoked tobacco products.” It should be noted at the time of press, the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved vaping as a method of smoking cessation. The FDA also does not regulate these products (yet).

However, because the odorless or pleasantly-scented vapor is easy to be concealed, e-cigarettes have quickly become extremely popular with teens. Even though recently Texas increased the legal age to buy tobacco and e-cigarette products from 18 to 21, vaping devices remain readily available in the black market. The truth of the matter is teens have an easier time using and becoming addicted to nicotine (the same nicotine found in conventional tobacco products) while having an easier time keeping it secret from their parents/teachers due to its inoffensive scent.

WOULD YOU KNOWINGLY ALLOW YOUR KIDS TO BECOME ADDICTED TO NICOTINE?

WHY SHOULD I BE CONCERNED ABOUT MY CHILDREN IN REGARD TO VAPING?

Nicotine addiction, and...

...in addition to the concern of highly-addictive nicotine, vapes with nearly odorless-Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) cartridges have also become popular amongst our youth. THC is the principal psychoactive constituent of cannabis and is responsible for the “high” achieved when consuming marijuana in any other manner.

A high number of counterfeit THC cartridges have made their way to the United States from overseas. These products are easily purchased online (through Instagram, etc.) and illegally shipped by mail straight to your front door or bought on the street for about \$20. Because of little-to-no regulation and quality control, some of these manufacturers have been using vitamin E acetate to “cut” (dilute) the THC vape juice for increased yield and profit. According to the CDC, vitamin E acetate is the culprit for 2,051 cases (as of November 8) of vaping product-associated lung injury in the United States, which have caused 39 deaths.

WHAT CAN I DO TO PROTECT MY CHILDREN?

Just like with any other potentially dangerous behaviors, here are some things you can do to help:

- Talk with your children about the negative and long-lasting effects of nicotine addiction, as well as the dangers associated with black-market THC cartridges.
- Stay informed. A quick web search will provide you more information, as well as what to look for in your child and in your child’s belongings.



Together, we can help our children keep from breaking the law and make educated decisions about what they introduce into their bodies.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your Hickory Creek Police Department. We are here to serve you!

ALL THINGS TRASH



REPUBLIC SERVICES SENIOR DISCOUNT

Hickory Creek provides a 30% senior discount on trash and recycling services for residents over 65. To get signed up, bring your trash bill and drivers license to Town Hall and let us know you're eligible for the discount. The Town will contact Republic Services for your discount on future bills. Once your information has been submitted, there is no need to reapply each year. Senior discounts previously applied for with Waste Management will carry over to Republic Services.



As you clean out the medicine cabinet remember Hickory Creek Town Hall has a MedReturn Drug Collection Unit so you can properly dispose of expired and unused medicines. Below is a list of what can and cannot be deposited in the Med Return.

ACCEPTED

Prescriptions
Prescriptions Patches
Prescription Medications
Prescriptions Ointments
Over-the-Counter Medications
Vitamins
Samples
Medications for pets

NOT ACCEPTED

Thermometers
Hydrogen Peroxide
Inhalers
Aerosol Cans
Ointments, Lotions, or Liquids
Needles (Sharps)
Medication from businesses or clinics
Bloody or infectious waste

UPCOMING BULK TRASH DAYS

January 16
FEBRUARY 21
MARCH 19
APRIL 16

COMMUNITY REMINDERS

BOAT RAMP & DAY USE PASSES

Boat ramp and day use passes expire on December 31 of each year. You can purchase 2020 passes at Town Hall, online, or at the pay stations located in Arrowhead, Point Vista, and Sycamore Bend. If you purchase the pass at the park pay station you will receive a receipt that requires you to stop by Town Hall during business hours to pick up a permanent sticker. If you purchase passes online, we send the pass to you in the mail.

Hickory Creek Residents receive a **FREE** day use pass but you must come by Town Hall to pick up the pass. Boat ramp passes for Hickory Creek residents are \$35. Having an expired park pass may result in a citation. Please place all passes in the front windshield by the inspection sticker so they may easily be seen.



ALARM PERMITS

The Town requires all commercial and residential alarm systems to register every January. First time residential alarm systems require a \$50 application fee and renewals are free. Failure to register an alarm system and/or multiple false alarms may result in citations and fines. Applications may be found on the Permits page of the town website or you may come pick up applications at Town Hall.



ANIMAL REGISTRATION

The Town of Hickory Creek requires all cats and dogs be registered with Animal Services annually. There is no charge to register, just bring a valid copy of their rabies vaccination certificate to Town Hall. Failure to register animals could result in a fine.

HICKORY CREEK TOWN HALL

1075 Ronald Reagan
Avenue

940-497-2528

Monday - Thursday

7:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Friday

7:00 AM - 11:00 AM

POLICE DEPARTMENT

1075 Ronald Reagan
Avenue

940-497-3520

Police/Fire Emergency 911

Non Emergency

940-349-1600

HICKORY CREEK ANIMAL SHELTER

970 Main Street

940-349-1600

Monday - Friday

7:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Saturday - Sunday

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

VISIT YOUR TOWN HALL



UPCOMING TOWN CLOSURES

January 20

Martin Luther King Day

February 17

President's Day

April 10

Good Friday

May 25

Memorial Day